

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 21, 25, 31, 35, 41 and 45, as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:
a recording unit adapted to ~~record an image on the basis of an image signal~~
~~input by any of plural input units provide a first mode for recording an image based on an~~
~~image data input from a first input device, and a second mode for recording an image based~~
~~on an image data input from a second input device;~~
a masking unit adapted to mask the image to be recorded by said recording unit, so as to provide a sheet-edge margin; and
a control unit adapted to variably control a size of a masking area of a sheet-
edge margin, based at least in part on a selected mode of said recording unit said masking
unit, on the basis of by which of said plural input units the image data is input.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein said plural input units include at least a reading unit adapted to read an original image, and a reception unit adapted to receive the image data from a host computer.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein said control unit expands an image area up to the vicinity of a sheet edge by reducing the

masking area of said masking unit when the image is recorded based on the image signal from said reception unit.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 23, further comprising a permitting unit adapted to permit said control unit to reduce the masking area when the image is recorded based on the image signal input from said reception unit, and adapted to inhibit said control unit from reducing the masking area when the image is recorded based on the image data read by said reading unit.

25. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:

a reading unit adapted to read an original image;

a reception unit adapted to receive an image signal from a host computer;

a recording unit adapted to record an image on the basis of the image signal input by said reading unit or said reception unit provide a first mode for recording an image based on an image data input from said reading unit, and a second mode for recording an image based on an image data input from said reception unit;

a masking unit adapted to mask the image to be recorded by said recording unit, so as to provide a sheet-edge margin; and

a control unit adapted to variably control a size of a masking amount of a sheet-edge margin, based at least in part on a selected mode of said recording unit said masking unit, on the basis of by which of said reading unit and said reception unit the image signal is input.

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 25, further comprising:

a masking control unit adapted to control, in order to expand an image area up to the vicinity of a sheet edge, said masking unit to reduce the masking amount on the basis of reception of a command to reduce the masking amount of said masking unit; and
a permitting unit adapted to permit the reduction of the masking amount only when the image is recorded based on image data input by said reception unit.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein said masking unit comprises

a masking signal generation unit adapted to generate a masking signal, and
a logical calculation unit adapted to perform logical calculation to the image signal and the masking signal generated by said masking signal generation unit.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein said recording unit comprises

a semiconductor laser,
a scanning unit adapted to scan a laser beam generated by said semiconductor laser, and
a detection unit adapted to detect the laser beam scanned by said scanning unit.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein

said masking unit masks the laser beam in a main scanning direction and a sub scanning directions of the laser beam.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein said masking unit controls masking in a main scanning direction on the basis of a detection signal of said detection unit.

31. (Currently Amended) An image masking control method comprising:

a masking step of masking an image input from any of plural input units so as to provide a sheet-edge margin;

a masking control step of variably controlling the size of a masking area of a sheet-edge margin in said masking step, on the basis of by which of the plural input units the image data is input; and

a recording step of recording the image on the basis of the image signal input from any of the plural input units providing a first mode for recording an image based on an image data input from a first input device, and a second mode for recording an image based on an image data input from a second input device, wherein in said masking control step, the size of the masking area of the sheet-edge margin is based at least in part on a selected mode of said recording step.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 31, wherein the plural input units include at least a reading unit adapted to read an original image, and a reception unit adapted to receive the image data from a host computer.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 32, wherein, in said masking step, when the image is recorded based on the image signal from the reception unit, an image area is expanded up to the vicinity of a sheet edge by reducing the masking area in said masking step.

34. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 33, wherein it is permitted to reduce the masking area when the image is recorded based on the image signal input from the reception unit, and it is inhibited to reduce the masking area when the image is recorded based on the image data read by the reading unit.

35. (Currently Amended) An image masking control method comprising:

reading step of reading an original image;

a reception step of receiving an image signal from a host computer;

a masking step of masking the image so as to provide a sheet-edge margin;

a control step adapted to variably control a size of a masking amount of a sheet-edge margin in said masking step, on the basis of whether the image is read in said reading step or received in said reception step; and

a recording step of recording an image on the basis of the image signal input in said reading step or said reception step providing a first mode for recording an image based on an image data input from a first input device, and a second mode for recording an image based on an image data input from a second input device, wherein in said masking control step, the size of the masking area of the sheet-edge margin is a based at least in part on a selected mode of said recording step.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 35, further comprising

a masking control step adapted to control, in order to expand an image area up to the vicinity of a sheet edge, masking control to reduce the masking amount on the basis of reception of a command to reduce the masking amount,

wherein it is permitted in said masking control step to reduce the masking area only when the image is recorded based on image data input in said reception step.

37. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 35, wherein said masking step comprises

a masking signal generation unit adapted to generate a masking signal, and

a logical calculation step of performing logical calculation to the image signal and the masking signal generated in said masking signal generation step.

38. (Original) A method according to Claim 35, wherein said recording step comprises

a step of scanning a laser beam generated by a semiconductor laser, and

a detection step of detecting the laser beam scanned in said scanning step.

39. (Original) A method according to Claim 38, wherein said masking step masks the laser beam in a main scanning direction and a sub scanning directions of the laser beam.

40. (Original) A method according to Claim 38, wherein said masking step controls masking in a main scanning direction on the basis of a detection signal in said detection step.

41. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:
plural lasers adapted to emit laser beam;
a scanning unit adapted to scan laser beams emitted from said plural lasers;
an input unit adapted to input image data each corresponding to the plural laser beams; and
a generation unit adapted to generate plural masking signals, each to control light emission of a corresponding one of the plural lasers,
wherein the plural masking signals are generated by said generation unit at mutually independent timings.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 41, further comprising a detection unit adapted to detect a laser beam scanned, so as to generate a sync signal.

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein

said generation unit generates each of the plural masking signals on the basis of each of the plural laser beams detected by said detection unit.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein said generation unit generates each of the plural masking signals on the basis of the single laser beam detected by said detection unit.

45. (Currently Amended) An image masking control method comprising:
a scanning step of scanning plural lasers;
an input step of inputting image data corresponding to the plural lasers; and
a generation step of generating plural masking signals, each to control light emission of a corresponding one of the plural lasers,
wherein the plural masking signals are generated in said generation step at mutually independent timing timings.

46. (Original) A method according to Claim 45, further comprising a detection step of detecting a laser beam scanned, so as to generate a sync signal.

47. (Original) A method according to Claim 46, wherein said generation step generates each of the plural masking signals on the basis of each of the plural laser beams detected in said detection step.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 46, wherein said

generation step generates each of the plural masking signals on the basis of the single laser beam detected in said detection step.